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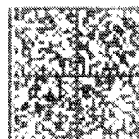
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/554,844	09/19/2000	Volker Zimmer	RDID0044US	9010

7590 06/03/2004  
Jill L Woodburn  
The Law Office of Jill L. Woodburn LLC  
6633 Old Stonehouse Drive  
Newburgh, IN 47630

EXAMINER

PADMANABHAN, KARTIC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1641

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/554,844

**Applicant(s)**

ZIMMER ET AL.

**Examiner**

Kartic Padmanabhan

**Art Unit**

1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,7-10,13 and 15-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,7-10,13 and 15-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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4. Claims 2-3, 7-10, 13, 15-27, and 29-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (US Pat. 5,399,316) in view of Hodges et al. (US Pat. 5,942,102) and Zimmer et al. (US Pat. 5,814,522).

Yamada discloses a device (10) for conducting an immunological assay (see ABSTRACT; FIGURE). The device (10) comprises a carrier (17), detection element, cover (11) with a surface that cooperates with a surface of the carrier (17) to form a capillary-active channel (14), second cover (24), and intermediate layer (12,13) positioned between the second cover (24) and carrier (11) (see FIGURE). Since the instant specification (page 10) discloses that the detection element (2) may be a reagent-impregnated membrane, the detection element may be considered the specific affinity material placed in the reaction region (21) (see COL. 6, lines 55 and 56). The specific affinity material may be chemically or physically bound to at least one surface of the cover (11), intermediate layers (12, 13), or carrier (17) (see COL. 6, lines 56-59). Alternatively, an insoluble material to which a specific affinity material is bound may be placed in the reaction region (21) so as not to interfere with the flow of the solution inside the capillary-active channel (14) (see COL. 6, lines 59-63). In this case, one would expect that the insoluble material would have opposite first and second ends with the first end being positioned adjacent to the carrier. Since the specific affinity material is placed in the channel (14), one would also expect that the cover (11) would also cooperate with a surface of the detection element to form the channel (14). After sufficient time has passed for a reaction to occur, a detection unit of a measuring apparatus, such as a photoelectron multiplier is located above the carrier (17), which covers the reaction region (21), and the amount of light emitted from the reaction region (21) is measured (see COL. 7, line 67-COL. 8, line 44). In the event one would argue that the specific

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affinity material is not an element distinct from the cover as shown in the drawings of the instant application, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to separate the specific affinity material from the cover since it provides flexibility in testing different assays by allowing placement of different specific affinity material to be placed into the reaction region especially when the device is disclosed as reusable (see COL. 7, lines 26-41). Furthermore, it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art (*Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177,179).

The channel (14) has a sample application opening (22) defined by at least one edge (see FIGURE). The channel (14) extends at least from the opening to the second end of the detection element since excess liquid is absorbed by member (28), an ancillary element that may be attached to the end of the channel (14) or second end of the reaction region (21) (see FIGURE). The at least one notch (15,16) in the form of a partial groove is positioned at the at least one edge of the sample application opening (22) of the channel (14) such that one side of the edge of the sample application opening (22) is at least partially interrupted by the at least one notch (15,16), and the surface facing opposite to the at least one notch (15,16) facing the channel (14) is exposed. A liquid sample is contacted with the edge of the sample application opening (22) adjacent to the notch (15,16) such that the liquid sample is immediately transported by capillary forces into the channel (14) (see ABSTRACT; FIGURE; SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION; COL. 5, lines 13-31; COL. 6, lines 64-68; COL. 7, lines 1-68., COL. 8, lines 1-9 and 14-36). However, the reference does not teach a notch such that at least one edge of the sample

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application opening is at least partially discontinuous and a surface opposite the notch is exposed.

Hodges et al. teach an electrochemical detection method and device, wherein a notch is provided in the channel to allow sample to be admitted or drawn in by wicking or capillary action and to allow air to escape. However, the reference does not teach a vent, filtration means, or foil.

Zimmer et al. teach a multilayer analytical element and method for the determination of analyte in a liquid, wherein said element comprises an application zone and detection zone side by side on a stacked complex composed of fleece and a porous membrane, wherein said fleece and porous membrane are in fluid contact via a contact area which permits passage of fluid there through, a portion of said porous membrane being in the detection zone and having a detection reagent which forms a signal upon interaction with analyte. Sample may be applied directly to the sample application zone, but the use of a capillary channel is also compatible with the device of the reference. One possible embodiment of the analytical element is the location of the fleece and membrane on a support foil which has a hole in the area of the test zone containing reagent. A covering foil is attached with a spacer on the fleece side in such a way that there is a capillary gap in the sample application zone. There may be a vent if the channel is only open at the inlet side. The porosity of the membrane acts to filter out certain particles. Analyte presence can be determined visually or by an instrument.

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the notch in the device of Yamada with the notch of Hodges et al. because it allows for a small amount of sample to be drawn into the channel via capillary action,

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while also allowing air to escape from the channel. In addition, it would have been obvious to use a vent and filtration means as in Zimmer et al. with the modified device and method of Yamada and Hodges et al. because Zimmer et al. teaches that a vent is necessary when the channel is only open at the one end, and filtration means allows for the removal of various substances that may block the channel or interfere with the operation of the device in some other way. Further, it would have been obvious to use foil as taught by Zimmer et al. because foil provides a good supporting material, while being inert so as not to interfere with the assay in any meaningful way.

5. Claims 5 and 28 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (US Pat. 5,399,316) in view of Hodges et al. (US Pat. 5,942,102) and Zimmer et al. (US Pat. 5,814,522), as applied to claims 2-3, 7-10, 13, 15-27, and 29-40 above, and further in view of Heller et al. (US Pat. 6,238,624).

Yamada, Hodges et al., and Zimmer et al. teach a modified device and method for conducting an assay, as previously discussed. However, the references do not teach using oxidized aluminum for hydrophilization.

Heller et al. teach forming lawn type permeation layers by attaching bifunctional linear or polymeric hydrophilic molecules to a metal surface in fabricating a microelectronic device to carry out and control multi-step and multiplex molecular biological reactions in microscopic format, which are significant in clinical diagnostics (see ABSTRACT, COL. 16, lines 55-64). The preferred procedure for producing a lawn type structure involves derivatization of the metal microelectrode surface using aminopropyltriethoxy silane (APS) (see COL. 17, lines 13-15). APS provides a combined permeation and attachment layer with primary amine groups for



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covalent coupling of binding entities, especially oligonucleotides (see COL. 17, lines 17- 19, 38, and 39). APS provides a high level of functionalization in terms of surface binding sites on slightly oxidized aluminum (see COL. 17, lines 20-22).

Therefore, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use oxidized aluminum for hydrophilization as in Heller et al. in the modified device and method of Yamada, Hodges et al., and Zimmer et al. to provide a high level of surface binding sites to bind targeted entities in sample liquid diagnostics.

### ***Double Patenting***

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

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7. Claims 2-3, 5, 7-10, 13, and 15-40 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,592,815. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both sets of claims recite analytical test elements and methods of detection comprising similar elements and steps, and one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the two sets of claims read on each other.

***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 3, 5, 7-10, 13, and 15-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Claims 2, 3, 5, 7-10, 13, and 15-40 are rejected.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kartic Padmanabhan whose telephone number is 571-272-0825.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 571-272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kartic Padmanabhan  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1641



LONG V. LE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

05/01/04



U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	ATTY DOCKET NO. RDID 0044 US	SERIAL NO. 09/554,844
	APPLICANT Zimmer et al.	
	FILING DATE 09/19/2000	GROUP 1641

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2004

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
KL	1	6,325,975	12-2001	Naka et al.	422	61	
	2	5,399,316	03-1995	Yamada	422	58	
	3	5,942,102	08-1999	Hodges et al.	205	775	
	4	5,962,215	10-1999	Douglas et al.	435	4	
	5	4,354,308	10-1982	Shimada et al.	438	49	
	6	5,741,634	04-1998	Nozoe et al.	204	403.03	
	7	5,100,627	03-1992	Buicn et al.	422	108	
	8	5,006,474	04-1991	Horstman et al.	436	524	
	9	4,900,663	02-1990	Wie et al.	435	7.32	
	10	5,843,691	12-1998	Douglas et al.	435	14	
	11	5,762,770	06-1998	Pritchard et al.	204	403.14	
	12	5,759,364	06-1998	Charlton et al.	204	403.14	
✓	13	5,437,999	08-1995	Diebold et al.	204	403.11	

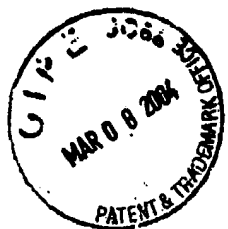
## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
KL	14	WO 97/18465	05-1997	PCT	G01N	27/42	
	15	EP 0 852 336 A1	07-1998	Europe	G01 N	33/558	
	16	WO 94/22011	09-1994	PCT	G01 N	33/543	
	17	WO 96/28715	09-1996	PCT	G01 N	1/00	
✓	18	GB 2090659A	07-1982	GB	G01N	33/48	

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

19	
Examiner <i>Kristen Rodenroth</i>	Date Considered 5/3/04

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609.  
Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	ATTY DOCKET NO. RDID 0044 US	SERIAL NO. 09/554,844
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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
14P	20	5,395,504	03-1995	Saurer et al.	204	403.03	
	21	5,405,511	04-1995	White et al.	205	777.5	
	22	5,575,895	11-1996	Ikeda et al.	204	403.1	
	23	5,264,103	11-1993	Yoshioka et al.	205	778	
	24	4,138,216	02-1979	Larsson et al.	422	58	
	25	5,173,433	12-1992	Bachand	436	169	
	26	4,826,772	05-1989	Meathrel	436	93	
	27	5,395,506	03-1995	Duce et al.	204	426	
	28	5,714,123	02-1998	Sohrab	422	99	
	29	4,439,526	03-1984	Columbus	436	180	
	30	6,174,420 B1	01-2001	Hodges et al.	204	403	
	31	4,952,373	08-1990	Sugarman et al.	422	99	
✓	32	6,238,624	05-2001	Heller et al.	422	68.1	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	33						
	34						
	35						
	36						
	37						

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	38	
	39	
Examiner	<i>Kurti Padmanabhan</i>	
Date Considered	5/31/04	

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609.  
Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



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RECEIVED  
MAR 15 2004

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	40	5,271,895	12-1993	McCroskey et al.	422	58	
	41	5,208,163	05-1993	Charlton et al.	436	63	
	42	4,250,257	02-1981	Lee et al.	435	4	
	43	5,147,606	09-1992	Charlton et al.	422	56	
	44	4,254,083	12-1991	Columbus	422	55	
	45	5,071,746	10-1991	Wilk et al.	435	7.94	
	46	4,588,624	05-1986	Nygren et al.	428	36	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	53						
	54						
	55						
	56						
	57						

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	58	
Examiner	<i>Heather R. [Signature]</i>	
Date Considered	5/31/04	

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.